

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Applicant proposes, subject to the Examiner's approval, correcting and adding reference numerals to FIGS. 4, 5, 5A, 5B, 7, 8A, 8B, 9A, 9B, 10, 10A and 10B as shown in red ink on the sheets of drawings enclosed herewith.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In another embodiment of the present invention, illustrated generally in Fig. 7, the stent is drug laden so that the stent comprises a stent metal structural member 42 and a planar sheet or film of polymeric material 44. The film of polymeric material 44 has a first end 46 of a first layer 47 of polymeric material and a second end 48 of a second layer 49 overlapping the first end 46 and attached to the first layer 47 of the polymeric film 44. Attachment of the first layer 47 of the polymeric film is accomplished by the textured or roughened surface of the present invention on the stent structural member 42.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-4 and 12-15 as indicated below.

1. (Amended) A stent, comprising:

a structural support comprising an outer surface that is roughened or patterned; and
a polymeric film or sheet or tube that overlays the structural support wherein the polymeric film or sheet or tube is retained to the structural support by the roughened or patterned outer surface and fills in gaps in the roughened or patterned outer surface such that the exterior surface of the stent is smooth.

2. (Amended) The stent of claim 1 wherein the roughened or patterned outer surface comprises raised triangles.

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3. (Amended) The stent of claim 1 wherein the roughened or patterned outer surface comprises spikes.

4. (Amended) The stent of claim 1 wherein the roughened or patterned outer surface comprises raised squares.

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12. (Amended) A system for retaining a polymeric film or sheet or tube on a stent, comprising a roughened or a patterned outer surface on the stent wherein the polymeric film or sheet or tube fills in gaps in the roughened or patterned outer surface such that the exterior of the stent is smooth.

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13. (Amended) The retaining system of claim 12 wherein the roughened or patterned surface comprises one or more of raised squares or triangles or spikes.

14. (Amended) The retaining system of claim 13 wherein the squares or triangles or spikes are raised from about 0.001 inch to 0.005 inch.

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15. (Amended) A method for adhering a polymeric sheet to a stent structural member, comprising:

providing a stent structural member with an outer surface;

providing a polymeric sheet or tube;

roughening or patterning the outer surface of the stent structural member with a raised textured design; and